

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the
City of Huntington Park City Council
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

The City Council conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20.

The Rules of Decorum were played prior to the start of the Regular Meeting.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, California was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 6550 Miles Avenue, Huntington Park, California; Mayor Manuel "Manny" Avila presiding.

PRESENT: Council Member(s): Eduardo "Eddie" Martinez, Marilyn Sanabria, Karina Macias, Vice Mayor Graciela Ortiz, and Mayor Manuel "Manny" Avila.

CITY OFFICIALS/STAFF: Ricardo Reyes, City Manager; Raul Alvarez, Assistant City Manager; Araceli Almazan, City Attorney; Sergio Infanzon, Director of Community Development/Acting City Clerk; Cesar Roldan, Director of Public; Cosme Lozano, Chief of Police Works; Nita McKay, Director of Finance & Administrative Services **ABSENT:** Alvarez-Glasman, City Attorney; Cynthia Norzagaray, Director of Parks & Recreation

INVOCATION

Invocation was led by Council Member Macias.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Martinez.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor Avila announced the Presentation of "The Red Cross Proclamation" and introduced Vice Mayor Graciela Ortiz to make the presentation. Veronica Garcia, a representative from the Red Cross, called to thank the City Council for its support.
2. Mayor Avila announced the Mayor's First Annual Employee Recognition and presented Alvaro Encarnacion with a special certificate.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following is a summary of the comments presented during this section:

1. **Comments in Support and Against Huntington Park Police Department Officers**
In Support – Daniela Correa, Linda Correa, Yvonne Correa, Carlos Cordova, Eva Cruz, Margarita Alvarez, Norma Preciado, Kerry Porter, Eve Landeros, Jesse Nyc, Monica Garcia, Cristian Correa, Eddie Benitez & Veronica Serrano
Against – Maria C. & Crystal Melendrez
2. **Comments in support and Against the Blue ribbon committee**
In Support - Albert Gonzalez, Ivan Meza, Gerald Chavarria, GTD Apartments, Luis Andrade, Ily Baltazar & Gerald Chavarria
Against/Questions and/or concerns – Jesse Contreras & Mike Navia
3. **Questions/Concerns for a healthy Huntington Park** – Iggy Alva

STAFF RESPONSE

1. City Manager stated that he never engaged in any conversation that involved bringing a Sheriff's Department. The city has not laid off a single Police Officer, in fact for every Police Officer that has left the department the city has hired a new patrol officer. The idea of having less Officers out on patrol is untrue the city has hired more Police Officers for patrol.

2. Vice Mayor thanked the City Manager for confirming that no one Police Officer has been laid off, also for confirming that there are no plans to bring in the Sheriff's Department. Vice Mayor asked Chief of Police if it was correct that there were only three Police Officers per Shift. Chief of Police answered that the was not correct. Vice Mayor asked if the sound on the video could be looked at. Vice Mayor also asked Director of Finance Ms. McKay if she could confirm that the City of Huntington Park did not have the highest sales tax in the entire nation. Ms. McKay answered and said, "We do not".
3. Mayor Avila stated that 20 or more public comments read during the public comment portion of the agenda were negative and positive, the best thing is that residents of the community are been heard. He asked the Chief of Police to step to the podium to speak and give his response about tonight's comments.
4. Chief of Police Lozano replied by stating his appreciation for the support of the City Council. He also stated that one of the primary duties of his position is to work with the City Manager, City Council and the Community to move the interest of the community through the Police Department. He stated that he has been part of the community for many decades, and being with the Police Department for over 30 years and going through these hard challenging times it is about the community and protecting that interest of the community. For a long time, police patrols have been the most lacking part in our community and that is the primary effort.
5. Lastly, the City Manager stated that it is true that the Police Department is going through some changes, but the city has not made any unilateral decisions and all those changes all been in partnership and agree to by the Huntington Park Police Officers Association and the City of Huntington Park.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Vice Mayor Ortiz moved to approve the consent calendar from the March 16, 2021, Regular Meeting, seconded by Council Member Sanabria. Motion passed 5-0-0, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. Approve Minute(s) of the following City Council Meeting(s):

1-1. Regular City Council Meeting held March 2, 2021.

FINANCE

2. Approve Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrant(s) dated March 16, 2021

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC WORKS

3. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM ANNUAL EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR FY 2021-22

Motion: Vice Mayor Ortiz moved to approve the Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Water Program Annual Expenditure Plan for FY 2021-22 seconded by Council Member Sanabria. Motion passed 5-0-0, by the following vote:

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item and introduced Director Cesar Roldan to present the item.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

4. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE IRREVOCABLE OFFER OF DEDICATION OF A SEGMENT OF PARCELS 6310-016-005, 6310-016-006, 6310-016-007 AND 6310-016-009 FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ON SLAUSON AVENUE AND BICKETT STREET

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item and introduced Director Cesar Roldan to present the item.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria moved to **approve setting Public Hearing of April 6, 2021 for the acceptance of the irrevocable offer of dedication of a segment of parcels 6310-016-005, -006, -007, and -009 for public right-of-way purposes on Slauson Avenue and Bickett Street**, seconded by Council Member Macias. Motion passed 5-0-0, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

5. CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR THE COTTAGE RESERVOIR REHABILITATION AT WELL 15

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item and introduced Director Cesar Roldan to present the item.

Motion: Council Member Sanabria moved to **authorize staff to publish and solicit a Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified consultant firms to rehabilitate the Cottage Reservoir at Well 15**, seconded by Mayor Avila, Motion passed 5-0-0, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

6. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK TO A COALITION OF EIGHT CORRIDOR CITIES, ORGANIZED THROUGH ECO-RAPID TRANSIT, TO SUBMIT A FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE WEST SANTA ANA GOVERNANCE PLAN

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item and introduced Director Sergio Infanzon to present the item.

Councilmember Karina Macias recused herself from participating of this item

Motion: Council Member Sanabria moved to **approve the Letter of Support to Eco-Rapid requesting funds from Metro; and authorize City Manager to execute the letter and related document** seconded by Mayor Avila, Motion passed 4-0-0, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias, Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

7. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION TO ALLOW THE INSTALLATION OF FIVE WIRELESS ACCESS POINTS TO EXISTING CITY FACILITIES

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item

Motion: Mayor Avila moved to **approve Resolution 2021-05 adopting a categorical exemption to allow the installation of five wireless access points to existing city facilities** seconded by Vice Mayor Ortiz, Motion passed 5-0-0, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

8. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (PSA) TO PREPARE A HOUSING ELEMENT FOR THE 6TH REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT (RHNA) CYCLE.

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item and introduced Director Sergio Infanzon to present the item.

Motion: Vice Mayor Ortiz moved to **approve a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with JHD Planning LLC (JHD) to prepare the RHNA 6th Cycle Housing Element and related documents for a not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000; and appropriate the amount of \$40,000 from the LEAP Grant approved by the State, up to \$150,000 is to be reimbursed to the City by the State; and authorize the City Manager to execute the PSA** seconded by Council Member Sanabria, Motion passed 5-0-0, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias, Vice Mayor
Ortiz and Mayor Avila

CITY COUNCIL

9. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CREATING A BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item

Motion: Council Member Martinez moved to **approve creating a Blue Ribbon Committee on Police Department Operations with the mission to improve public transparency and accountability with respect to the City Police Department** seconded by Council Member Sanabria, Motion passed 5-0-0, by the following vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

Council/Staff Responses on the item

Council Member Martinez background in nonprofit social justice has thought him over the years that in order to change policies in order to create change in the community the community needs to be involve in the process. Everything that was said today in the public comments needs the citizen's involvement. Having the Blue Ribbon Committee for six months will give the community an opportunity to get residents involved, look at how the policies are operated and the civic involvement by the Police Department and finally put forward any recommendations for some positive change. Council Members wants to thank colleagues for supporting this item.

Council Member Macias, echoed comments from Council Member Martinez, based on what was said in the public comments there is a lot of misconception and misinformation with the Police Department. There are many officers who come every day to work and do and amazing job for the community. There is a need to hold everyone accountable, including the police officers, and the city council members. Council has not talked about bringing in the Sheriff Department to City of Huntington Park.

Mayor Avila recommended for the City Council select the members of the new committee.

City Manager mentioned the committee would be made of five members selected by each of the Council Members

Council Member Sanabria comments on how there has been a lot of misinterpretation regarding the Huntington Park Police Officers, echoing what was said earlier that no Police Officer has been let go. Council's priority as well as the Chief of Police is patrolling the City. This is a way to reflect upon what the city is doing right and wrong, this is not an attack against the HPPD or any. It is a reflection to help better improve and provide better customer service for the community.

10. REORGANIZATION

Annually City Council shall choose one of its members to serve as Mayor and one to serve as Vice Mayor for a one-year term.

City Manager Ricardo Reyes announced the item

1. Nominations for Mayor – Mayor Avila nominated Vice Mayor Ortiz for Mayor, and Council Member Sanabria seconded the nomination

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Martinez, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Ortiz and Mayor Avila

Los Angeles Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo conducted the swearing in ceremony for newly appointed Mayor Graciela Ortiz

2. Nominations for Vice Mayor – Councilmember Avila nominated Council Member Martinez for Vice Mayor, and Mayor Ortiz seconded the nomination

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Council Member(s): Avila, Sanabria, Macias,
Vice Mayor Martinez and Mayor Ortiz

3. Presentation to outgoing Mayor by elected Officials, elected official representatives and dignitaries

– Assembly Member Miguel Santiago representing the 53rd Assembly district presented former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila with a certificate of recognition. Representative Guadalupe Camberos representing Supervisor Hilda Solis presented former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila certificate of recognition. State Senator Lina Gonzalez representing the 33rd district presented former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila with a certificate of recognition. County of Los Angeles presented former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila a certificate of commendation. City of Bell, Cudahy Hawaiian Gardens and City of Paramount presented former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila a certificate of recognition. Huntington Park Mayor Ortiz and City Council presented former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila with a plaque.

Comments – City of Long Beach, Mayor Robert Garcia thanked former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila for his service as a Mayor of the City of Huntington Park leadership. Wishing former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila the best in his new chapter and everything that lights ahead.

Comments – The light of world church thanked and congratulated former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila.

4. Comments by Council Members – Council Member Macias thanked former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila for his service to the community, his compassion, and understanding, as well as his family, but most important for his leadership. Council Member Sanabria thanked former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila for his service. The way he kept Council going and always with a smile.

Council Member Martinez mentioned about the amazing job former Mayor “Manny” Avila did during this difficult year with the pandemic, poor economy and racial injustice in the world. Council Member is looking forward to working together with former Mayor in the upcoming years.

Mayor Ortiz and the rest of the Council Members presented a plaque to former Mayor Avila.

Former Mayor Avila thanked everyone for allowing him to realize his impossible dream becoming a Council Member and a Mayor for the City of Huntington Park. He thanked his wife, children, son, the community that voted for him, as well as the City Staff: City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney & staff, Legal representative, Chief of Police, all personnel in the Police Department, Director of Parks & Recreation, to the secretary of the Council, City Engineers, and employees. Special thanks to Council who are supportive, loyal and hardworking people.

Council Member Gilbert Cedillo expressed his admiration for the leadership under former Mayor Avila during these difficult times and thanked him for his service.

END OF REGULAR AGENDA

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS –

City Manager Ricardo Reyes thanked former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila for his service as a Mayor for the City of Huntington Park. Chief of Police Lozano thanked former Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila for his ongoing support with the Police Department and leadership. Acting City Clerk Sergio Infanzon thanked former Mayor Avila for his leadership and service to the community.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Sanabria congratulated former Mayor “Manny” Avila for his great leadership as well as Mayor Ortiz & Vice Mayor Martinez

Council Member Macias congratulated outgoing Mayor Manuel “Manny” Avila. Welcomed Mayor Ortiz & Vice Mayor Martinez and stated that she was looking forward to continuing working with Council and staff. Reminded Seniors about the food pantry taking place on Thursday the 18th from 1-3 p.m. at the community center.

Council Member Avila talked about how grateful he is about working with the Huntington Park City Council.

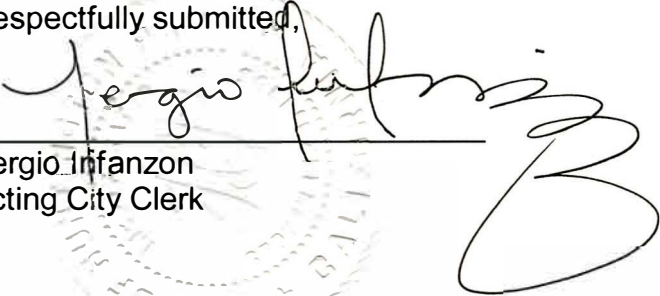
Vice Mayor Martinez congratulated employee Alvaro Encarnacion as well as Council Member Gilbert Cedillo. He also mentioned that his father just recently turned 91 as a cancer survivor.

Mayor Ortiz thanked colleagues, Senator Cedillo, her mother, and family for the ongoing support provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. in memory of Jose Angel Zamorano, Elias Q. Solis, and Coach Manuel “Manny” Zamorano to a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sergio Infanzon
Acting City Clerk